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THE CANADIAN RAILROADER



THE UPRISING OF YOUTH REGARDING
SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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A. F. OF L. CONVENTION DELEGATES

OFFICIAL ORGAN,
FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, JUNE 26th, 1920

Vol. 2, No. 26

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OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, May 28th.

THE Building trade is occupying more and more attention, owing to the serious house shortage and the difficulty the operatives are having to see eye to eye with the Government on the questions of dilution and the abrogation of certain trades union restrictions.

In London the workers in the industry are making a bold bid for an opportunity to do the necessary work without the parental assistance of the kindly employer and have evolved a guild scheme, a prospectus of which is just issued. The President of the Men's Federation, George Hicks, is not enamored of the scheme fearing it savors too much of vested interests, but the London Council has passed it and is appealing to its 60,000 members to take it up.

In any case the notion is too interesting to be allowed to pass with a casual reference. The prospectus declares that the great trade unions, no longer mainly defensive and restive, are awakening to a new conception of their functions.

There is a new vision of creative service—administrators, technicians, mechanics, and workers—all are invited to volunteer to the call of the guild, without thought of monetary gain, conscious that they are entering upon one of the greatest tasks in history; conscious that it needs them and cannot do without them.

The trade union ticket will be the certificate of guild membership, and it will enjoy full democratic control by all the workers.

The organization will be registered as the Guild of Builders, (London) Limited, with an issue of 25 cts. per share for each member, and its objects are enumerated as follows:

The first, and immediate, duty of the Guild is to monopolize the necessary labor to build the houses so

urgently needed by the nation, and to build them in the best possible manner, at the lowest possible cost, to carry on the industry of builders, decorators, and general contractors; to undertake all branches of supply, whether as merchant, manufacturer or transporter; and, finally, to carry on any other work which the society may think necessary or desirable in connection with the above objects.

The minimum Guild pay will always be the full standard rates as fixed in the industry as a whole, but it is added that there is no doubt that the Guild will be able to increase the purchasing power of its members' pay by the scientific organization of production.

There is unrest and discontent with the conditions of service in the fire brigades throughout the country.

For some time past firemen have been asking that the rates of pay and conditions of service should be improved, and that a pension scheme should be established for the whole service based on that of the London Fire Brigade.

Last December the Home Secretary appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire and report on the subject, and evidence was taken in the following February.

The delay of this committee, first in getting to work and now in issuing its report, is the cause of the present discontent in the service.

Rightly or wrongly the men believe that the committee was appointed simply to keep them quiet, and this feeling is not confined to the lower ranks, but is shared by the higher officers of the service.

Since the appointment of the committee the different fire brigade authorities will not consider any application for increases in wages, the excuse being that they can do nothing until the committee issues its report.

In London and a few of the more important brigades in the provinces, the authorities recognized the claim of the men for immediate concessions.

In order that the efficiency of their brigades should not become impaired, they gave the police rates of pay, abolished the continuous 24 hours a day duty and established what is known as "The 2-Platoon System" under which the duty is divided into two shifts of 12 hours each.

In other brigades, however, nothing has been done to ameliorate the conditions of the service and it is this which has brought about the present situation.

We have been expecting a strike in the London teashops, but the outbreak is staved off. Messrs. Lyons the biggest caterers in the city have a dispute on with their waitresses. This week the following settlement was arrived at:

Messrs. Lyons to recognize the Catering Trade Union.

Hours of work not to exceed 48 per week, excluding meal times.

Sunday work to be compensated by a day off during the week.

Extra railway fares on Sunday to be paid as usual.

A policy of no victimization to be accepted, and cases of alleged victimization to be rigidly examined, and if proved the victims to be reinstated.

Messrs. Lyons and the Catering Trade Union to work amicably to accelerate the setting up of a Trade Board to fix standard wages for all workers in tea shops.

The girls are paid \$7.50 a week, but demanded \$12.50.

Even the bank clerks have so far pocketed their dignity as to talk strike. At the annual meeting in London of the Bank Officers Guild, which has a membership of 20,000, the president, F. C. Clegg, observed that the bankmen of England and Wales were determined to get recognition for their league. The Irish banks had got recognition on the eve of a strike, and South African bankmen also got recognition when they turned down the question of sectionalisation and were balloting for a strike. He deprecated any such necessity being forced in England and Wales in support of demands which were most moderate and just, but they could not overlook the significance of the action of Ireland and South Africa. It was not, perhaps, altogether the fault of bank directors that they did not realize the power of unity among bankmen because the men themselves had wobbled and hesitated to join the league.

A motion in favor of a Joint Industrial Council was carried.

A little matter which is interesting us very much over here is that the election for the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress in September next will be run on the basis of Proportional Representation.

The announcement that the Federated Council of Government Em-

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ployees which includes about 10,000 of the laborers in the Royal Dockyards and similar establishments, has amalgamated with the National Union of General Workers, is of considerable interest as indicating the growth in the organization of general labor. The General Workers have also recently absorbed the Enginemen's and Crane-men's Society of London, the general branches of the Labor Protection League, and several other smaller societies. The growth of the other General Labor Unions is no less interesting. Quite recently the Workers' Union, the National Amalgamated Union of Labor and the Municipal Employees' Association decided to set up housekeeping together at a central office, and though the three societies retain their separate identity, they work together in a number of questions, e.g., the special Local Government Employees section of the Workers' Union acts closely in conjunction with the M. E. A. Just a year ago the largest industrial federation in the kingdom, with the exception of the Triple Alliance, was formed. This is the National Federation of General Workers which includes all the General Labor Unions except the women; and as there is at present on foot a movement to amalgamate the National Federation of Women Workers with the National Union of General Workers, it seems as though the women would soon be in. The Federation acts as a general negotiating body for all parties, but its ambition is to go further than this and to succeed in amalgamating all its constituents. By this means it would be possible both to get rid of constant overlapping and to set up industrial sections with internal self-government within the larger body.

The Transport Workers Federation at its annual council meeting next week will discuss a motion for one union for all transport workers. The tendency towards amalgamation is growing rapidly. Many trade unionists even dream of the day when we shall be all in one union—but the time for that is not yet.

Ethelbert Pogson

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The Legal Ass Brays Again

(By George Pierce).

IT is noteworthy that the press is almost unanimous in endorsing the principle of the famous "Kansas Plan" designed to prevent strikes. When the Chicago Republican Convention went on record as favoring the principle of that law, a sensational climax was reached. Briefly, the act provides that if two persons, as the result of conference, decide to reject the findings of a special court, such persons are considered to have committed a crime against the public welfare and are therefore subject to fine and incarceration. Prisons which restrain murderers, robbers, forgers and cheats are to be the home of men who protest against their industrial environment, using their only means of remedy which has proved to be effective, namely, the discontinuance of work, commonly known as the strike.

The presumption of the law is that by a mere stroke of the pen on a legal document the turbulent mass movement and the great underlying causes may be quelled. Under the sacred folds of the law, men are to be forced to work by the relentless method of threatening them with imprisonment and disgrace and the stigma of felony unless they servilely do the bidding of their masters.

If there is any morality in this law, it must apply with equal force upon all classes of the community.

Here are a few millionaires who have recently acquired wealth from fortunate contracts. They meet socially and discuss the pleasures of a trip abroad. There we have a group of wealthy men who decide to leave their offices at one o'clock and hold forth on the golf course. Some coupon clippers decide on motoring and others on kachting. Think of the terrible calamity visited upon the unprotected community by the absence of these men from the post of duty! In all arguments sustaining the present system, the fundamental principle is to recognize the indispensability of the upper class. If the lawyers and the doctors, the rich, irreplaceable men, hie themselves off to places of amusemnt during working hours, is the public not suffering an irreparable injury by the deprivation of the creative brains of these men? If these gentlemen are of such vital importance to the community, that because of the service rendered the laws entitle them to nine-tenths of the world's wealth, does it not follow legally that when they absent themselves their offence is greater toward the public than that of the humble, unimportant workman? Let us apply the same sauce to the gander that has been fed by considerate law makers to the goose.

Can you conjure in your most imaginative mood the cry of dismay that would well up from that august assemblage if the heavy hand of the law was laid upon the shoulder of the rich merry-maker in precisely the same way that Kansas has saddled it upon the backs of the poor? Suppose the law threatened to fine and imprison every rich man who left his desk while creative work remained to be done; would there not be a tempest in the wash-tub? Or suppose the farmer decided not to farm for a year or two? Let us presume that he merely decided to raise that crop which required the least exertion irrespective of the menace to the hungry public. Should we apply the law in this case? Would it be the moral thing, the just and right thing, were we to fine him and send him to jail together with neighboring farmers who had agreed upon the same system of farming, upon the slender presumption that he was endangering the public welfare? Suppose the affluent doctor decides to curtail his labor, holding forth only from one to three in the afternoon, together with other doctors who have come to a similar practice? Think of the suffering of the public because of the withdrawal of expert medical knowledge from public reach. Should a similar law be enacted if the architect, the civil engineer, the lawyer, the chemist, threatened the public welfare by absenting himself, striking, as it were,

against long hours and trying conditions of work? What folly, what mountainous folly, and what rare presumption of the law, that a man's work may be made holy by the scratch of a pen, or that a man's brain can be imprisoned within a penitentiary's walls!

Since when the law has become greater than the man who made it? The law depends upon force for its power and its execution. Thus we have battle ships and Maxim guns. Is there any one in Kansas crazy enough, is there any one in the world mad enough, to believe that men are going to use their own force to break into prison walls for the purpose of incarcerating themselves? If this law is to be killed, to become a dead letter, only one thing is necessary, and that is to extend its scope, and develop its operations, and you produce its death. The truly remarkable thing about it all is, that when some crank brings forward an unusual idea our legislators leap upon it with avidity and read it into the law. Let earnest men bring forward a practical, creative piece of legislation which recognizes the rights of all classes of the community and provides the means for the common benefit, so apparent that not a single argument has ever been advanced against it, as in the case of a Tariff Board for instance, and these same law-makers will hesitate and procrastinate, oscillate and vacillate, and finally gyrate into some subterfuge with smug and exasperating complacency.

God deliver us from our law-makers at least on the Judgment Day.

Mexico's little war seems to indicate that she is determined to place herself in the front rank of civilized nations.

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Jim Larkin is busy shovelling coal in Sin-Sing. He always boasted he would make a blaze in America.

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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent)

THE Parliament of 1919 is now in its last lap and members are beginning to purchase their berths for home. Mr. Calder is floor manager for the Cabinet and he fills the role exceedingly well. His arrangements are carefully planned and tactful and he is always willing to make concessions to the wishes of other parties than his own. He knows when to bring in certain kinds of business and when to keep them in the background, and as a result rapid progress is being made with the accumulated arrears and with a little luck, providing no acutely controversial matter develops in the interim, prorogation may be possible on the 26th. At any rate it is certain to take place before Dominion Day.

It has been announced that before the Unionists separate to their homes a full dress caucus will be held at which as far as is possible the future of the Coalition will be decided. The matter of a platform is comparatively simple nowadays. With the tame submission of the surviving Liberal-Unionists to one of the most impudent and illdrafted Budgets on record, the Coalition managers are now aware that they will calmly accept any programme that is offered. There is no longer any need to bother about a compromise platform. Whatever is produced will not measurably differ from what would have been endorsed by a purely Tory convention organized by Mr. Robert Rogers if the diversion of Union Government had not occurred.

The main problem of the Coalition managers centres round the leadership and despite the outward appearance of good physical health which the Prime Minister offers to the world the conviction still prevails that he has determined to end his political career and retire, if not at the end of the session, at least within a few months. Mr. Rowell will probably accompany him. The latter's friends now aver that he will

not seek the Washington Embassy or any other appointment but will simply resume his legal practice.

The supporters of Mr. Meighen's candidature for the Premiership are not in a hopeful frame of mind. They fear that Sir Thomas White has not retired from the contest and will have the powerful backing of the Montreal interests who will hanker after the introduction of their pet politician, Sir Lomer Gouin, into federal politics. They want support from Quebec to defend the trenches of vested privilege. They think a White-Gouin combination could bring it, but fear that the memory of some of Mr. Meighen's past performances is still fresh in French-Canadian minds and would ensure a cold reception for any party led by him in Quebec. However a week may show some interesting developments. If Sir Robert and Mr. Rowell depart, it is unlikely that Mr. Arthur Sifton will long linger behind them and a wholesale reorganization of the Cabinet will be inevitable. This means by-elections and the Coalition has not developed the knack of carrying them. In days gone by a Federal Government rarely lost a by-election save in its last year. Their majority in the House is narrow and the loss of a few seats would inevitably mean a general election. In any case it is not impossible that such an event might take place this fall and it is badly needed to clear the political air.

The Budget is now practically through the Commons and it could, with difficulty, be recognized as the same scheme which emerged on May 18th. It seems to be generally agreed that its net effect will be to raise materially the cost of living. The rise may within a year turn out to be as high as ten per cent under the influence of it and other factors which have long passed out of the control of our worthy governors.

The natural sequence of such a rise in living costs will be the recrudescence on every hand of demands for increased wages. Several sections of Labor in various parts of the country are already restive at their present lot, numerous strikes are threatened and there are other attempts at settlement of serious wage disputes by arbitration. But in a few months' time, once the process of passing on all the new taxes to the consumer really begins, it is not hard to foresee the major trades unions pressing demands for increased wages. In the end, however, the people who will suffer most will be the minor salaried classes, clerks, civil servants, teachers, etc. After all many workers have no steep descent to make from prosperity to pauperism; their margin of life is always very narrow. But the interesting question is whether the "middle classes" of the towns, who hold themselves socially superior to the artisan and farming classes, and have hitherto been inclined to look with disdain upon the efforts of these elements to grasp some measure of political control, will continue to suffer calmly the limit at the hands and feet of their "betters".

We are about to see this matter tested out. The workers may to some extent make up leeway by successful strikes for higher wages but what of the "middle classes" above mentioned. Will they be content to "economize" still further in the health, education and amenities of their families; anything rather than pay attention to the greatest social question of all time—who fixes prices. States have perished before this on account of the political apathy of the "middle classes", who think it is not respectable to agitate and combine for political action. On the other hand, there are limits to the endurance of human nature. But apparently there are none to the demands of our existing economic system and its controllers.

On Monday the 14th Mr. Ballantyne surprised the House by unfolding a new naval policy and intimating that he would ask for \$2,200,000 to maintain a miniature navy consisting of one cruiser, two destroyers and two submarines which the British Admiralty in the goodness of its heart was presenting to us.

At the beginning of the session when Mr. Ballantyne made his bold announcement that he was going to scrap the Canadian Navy and only ask for a modest \$300,000 for its estimates, it looked as if Canada was going to be a real pioneer in the matter of disarmament. But apparently the Imperialists have taken alarm and applied their customary means of pressure. Col. Amery, one of their star performers, has lately been visiting Ottawa and has no doubt given timely advice. So we are to have a navy, after all, and Mr. Ballantyne promises that it will have the seagoing habit and not cling as in the past to pleasant harbors which are the scene of brilliant social functions. Boys will also be trained in the merchant marine with a view to becoming naval officers.

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Mr. King, with one eye on Quebec, denounced the additional expenditure, and, with the other on Ontario, admitted the necessity of defending our coasts. Once again he protested that this policy has been determined without adequate consultation of Parliament. Mr. Lemieux thought this expenditure on armaments was reprehensible in times like these, though he would otherwise have supported it. He found some gratification in the fact that the naval policy, of Sir Wilfrid has at last come into its own.

What with over \$12,000,000 for militia estimates, Mr. Rowell's little bill of nearly \$5,000.00 for his beloved Mounted Police, and this naval scheme our protective expenditure mounts up to a very large sum. Some of the Western Unionists do not like the size of the bill but if they carry their distaste to the point of voting against the naval estimates when they are produced it will be a nine days wonder.

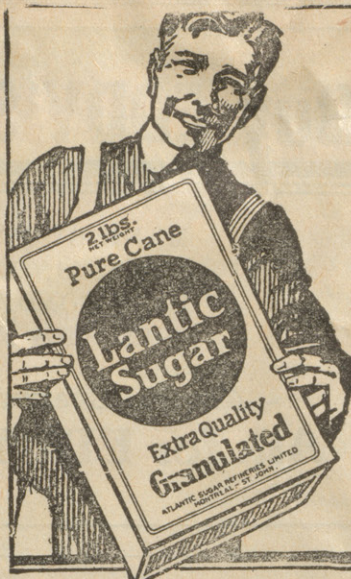
Some furore had been caused by the statement of a Toronto cleric, Dr. Speer by name, that Parliament had been corrupted by racetrack interests and induced to pass vicious legislation. The Premier characterized the statement as an outrageous libel on Parliament, with which Mr. King agreed. It was suggested that the offender should be brought before the bar of the House, but eventually the Speaker sent him a wire demanding an explanation and the reverend critic explained that he had not meant to cast any slur upon the honor of Parliament.

On Tuesday the Budget was once more to the fore and as item after item was brought forward and discussed, members took the opportunity of demanding alterations and pleading the case of special interests who required changes. Sir Henry refused some requests but granted others. There were some amusing interludes. Mr. W. S. Loggie, a curious elderly little man who is a lobster canner by profession, has constituted himself as sort of A.D.C. to the Finance Minister. Apparently once in the distant past Sir Thomas

White complimented him upon a speech in a Budget debate and ever since Mr. Loggie has regarded himself as a special authority upon financial problems. He intervened at regular intervals with an air of "I will clear that up for you", but the trouble is that he is very long-winded and his explanations do not make for rapid progress. On Tuesday he amused the house by showing an expert knowledge of ladies' hosiery and kindred raiment. Mr. Jacobs protested against the severity of the tax on beer which he said would have the effect of almost exactly doubling the price of that beverage.

On Wednesday the Committee stage of the Budget was concluded and the House turned to a variety of other matters. Sir Robert Borden introduced a resolution to amend the Customs' Act, whereby power should be given to the Governor-in-Council, which means the Cabinet, to make regulations relating to the exportation of any article. If passed it would virtually revive the great powers possessed by the Cabinet under the War Measures Act. Sir Robert asserted that he had talked the matter over with Mr. King and Mr. Crerar and had secured their approval to the suggestion that once the measure had got to a second reading it should be referred to a small select committee representative of all parties. Messrs. Bureau, Jacobs, and McMaster declined to be bound by the arrangements made by their leader and protested against the bill. Mr. McMaster was very outspoken in his enunciation of the proposal which he declared to be vicious. He said it was bad enough to have a protectionist government controlling imports without giving it power to control exports. However the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Guthrie then introduced the estimates for the Militia Department which showed an increase of more than \$4,000,000 over those of 1919. Mr. King and Mr. Crerar were both somewhat critical of increases in many items and Mr. Guthrie had to do a lot of explaining. The chief feature of the discussion, however, was a violent attack by



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Sir Sam Hughes upon the personal courage and military capacity of Sir Arthur Currie. He revamped a lot of old stories which the House had heard before. For some reason or other Sir Arthur is Sir Sam's favorite bugbear after Sir Thomas White and possibly Mr. Rowell, and he never loses an opportunity of reviling him in public.

Dr. Clark made a strong plea for economy in military expenditures and it was interesting to find that Col. Peck, V.C., was in favor of the voluntary system.

On Thursday Sir Robert's amendment to the Customs' Act received its second reading and a special committee, including the leading figures on both sides of the House, was named to deal with it. Sir Robert officially announced the resignation of Mr. W. F. O'Connor, Chairman of the Board of Commerce, which leaves Mr. Murdock as the surviving commissioner.

Mr. Lemieux adjourned the House to discuss the coal situation which he declared was very serious and might lead to great suffering next winter. The Premier admitted that the problem gave the government some concern but was not so alarming as it was depicted in certain quarters. Mr. Guthrie proceeded with Militia estimates and found himself faced with a running fire of criticism. Mr. King challenged a great number of items, but he would have found more support if he had concentrated upon a few for which there was no real defence. The House in general was inclined to think some of the estimates smacked of extravagance and Mr. Guthrie discreetly decided to reserve some of the items most likely to arouse criticism among his own

side for the closing days of the session when opposition usually peters rapidly out.

Mr. Burrell accordingly took his place with post office estimates, acting for Senator Blondin, who seems to have ceased taking any personal responsibility for his department. The country has been carrying newspapers at a very heavy annual loss and it is now proposed to increase the rate charged for them fourfold. Friends of the press asked for some concessions and Dr. Michael Stede, whose exclusive patrician notions have been the cause of a feud between the Press Gallery and the House of Commons over the use of the Parliamentary restaurant indulged in an attack upon the press of Canada.

Friday was given up to public work estimates and Dr. Reid had to give an account of the vagaries of the Public Works Department now under his loving care in regard to grants for bridges. Mr. Cronyn tabled the report of the Pensions Committee of which he was chairman. It is a well-drafted and elaborate document and recommends a variety of changes in our pension system which will entail an additional expenditure of \$12,000,000 per annum. It makes one interesting and much needed provision for a system of insurance by the state for veterans. Mr. Burrell occupied the closing hours of the day with amendments to the Revenue Act connected with the Budget. The House sat on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. practically all its time was given up to estimates and a bill relating to the Superannuation of Civil servants. Mr. Burrell accordingly took his place

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The Uprising of Youth

(The Survey, New York)

Throughout the world, one effect of the war common to the different nationalities seems to be the emancipation of impulsive young men and women against the "tyranny of age" which makes the laws, without consideration for the desires and ideals of the younger generation, and conscripts youth for the execution of its policies. The revolutions of 1848 in different countries of Europe were largely the result of agitation at the universities, and in 1920 again it is in the institutions of learning that the voice of revolt is the loudest—with this difference, however, that now it finds an echo in the organized ranks of young workers.

In Germany, the political organization of youth antedates the war but has since assumed a significance and power with which politicians must seriously reckon. The National People's Party, which is now the most active of the liberal parties, has created a German National League of Youth which has considerable influence on its policies. The conservative parties have followed with provision for special organization of minors; and the associations of young people under Christian auspices, both Catholic and Protestant, are also said to have gained in number and in political activity—though in their case it is probably the result of a conscious effort to steer the younger people away from subversive movements into the safe channels of conservatism. The socialists always have taken special pains to organize youth; and it is not surprising to learn that the radical left wing is trying its best to wean the young people of the party away from the established organizations under moderate socialist influences into the new associations with definitely communist principles. The Ministry of Education has recently taken steps to prevent so far as that is possible, the permeation of high schools with political controversy; but apparently with little success because instead of creating or supporting organs for the free discussion of political subjects by the students it has taken a purely negative stand.

In Switzerland, the liberal movement among the young has become strong enough to support an organ of its own, *La Suisse Jeune*, which does not serve the interests of any one party but attempts to aid in bringing about common action for the liberation of youth. It discusses laws, regulations and court decisions which affect high school and college students and promotes the creation of self-governing associations of students both within and

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without the educational institution. These efforts seem to have the support and cooperation of a large section of the faculties. The leaders of the movement are concerned to preserve for it the high ideals with which it started, since there are occasional signs of degeneration into mere lawlessness and extension of student traditions of liberty to younger scholars in high schools who are not mature enough to maintain it on so high a plane.

In Austria, likewise, the influence of the new spirit has made itself felt in the high schools, and the movement here as in Germany has taken the form of "students' councils." A writer in *La Suisse Jeune* reports, however, that in Vienna the purposes and programmes of the movement are more serious than either in Germany or Hungary; that there is less playing with the idea of the "school soviet," and that educational ideas are the main motive. The reason for this he finds in the historical preeminence of Vienna as a centre of intellectual culture. The relation of students and teachers, however, the participation of students in the maintenance of discipline and freedom of assembly and organization, seems to be the main practical questions discussed, in addition to definite demands in re-plans, regulations governing examinations and the like.

In England, Italy, Russia and Japan similar movements of varying intensity and strength have come into life in the last two years. In addition to a democratic association of youth, similar in scope and purpose to the Young Democracy in the United States, there has been considerable growth of socialist student clubs at the different universities, and these have allied themselves in a national society. The new middle class movement toward the left, already commented upon in the "Survey," finds expression here in the endeavor of graduates to associate themselves definitely with some section of the labor movement on entering their professional careers. In Italy, a new publication, *La Fiamma Verde*, centralizes the movement for the organization of youth which is still in an early stage and, apparently, one mainly of high school students. A conference is to be held shortly in Rome to discuss physical and cultural education and to promote the creation of discussion centres and gymnasia in the larger cities. In Russia, the movement of course enjoys the protection of the Soviet government which encourages far-reaching self-government at the educational institutions and liberalization of studies. In Japan, according to recent visitors from that country, there is a strong liberal and pro-labor current at the colleges, and many young graduates of the best classes have thrown overboard all their connections in order to lead the life of workingmen, even going so far as to marry girls of the lower ranks and to exclude themselves from the society of their own peers.



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The Source of British Prosperity

(News of the World, London)

Discussing the grave problems which today thrust themselves so insistently upon statesmanship. Mr. Clynes showed courage and originality in his address as President of the National Union of General Workers. He dealt, amongst other topics, with the trusts and "direct action." The two are not without relationship. The covetousness which created the former sowed to some extent the seeds of the latter. The people, sorely tried by high pri-

es, listen with avidity to proposals which seem to offer a chance of a rough and ready settlement with exploiters of their necessities.

The "direct actionist" would cure everything by ruining everything. He would eradicate the disease by the infallible process of slaying the patient. In other words, in an effort to readjust the balance of wealth, he would make an end of it altogether.

Mr. Clynes's attitude towards the volcanic method of redressing grievances, is precisely that so often stated in these columns. The extended franchise makes of every General Election the only rational mode of "direct action." The will of the people, expressed through the ballot box, is irresistible. Parliament and the Government are but their instruments. Made by the people, neither could long survive the withdrawal of popular favor. That is a statement of positive truth, which admits of no contradiction. All that its opponents can do is to denounce our well-tryed system as too slow. It is easy to show that their policy is quick only in the suicidal sense. The whole prosperity of this country is bound up with its foreign trade. The people exist in the main upon imported supplies. Any serious disturbance of credit due to internal commotions would check the flow of commodities to our shores, and leave us with empty warehouses and empty shops. Thus would "direct action", if attempted on a large scale, induce wholesale want and misery.

Countries that are in the main self-supporting can afford, perhaps, to toy with such a gospel. If a State has corn for all-comers within its borders a change in the Government simply means a change in the custody of the granaries. Whoever holds them must feed the people as the

surest method of winning their loyalty. This is the case of Russia and Poland and the Central European countries. Germany was able to fight for five years because it was easily within her pre-war capacity to raise seventy-five per cent. of her agricultural food stuffs. As the war went on, her production diminished from loss of man power and facilities for good husbandry. At the end the condition of her population was one of acute distress.

During all those terrible years, with millions of our men under arms, and our shipping largely diverted to military purposes, our people felt no really painful deprivation in the matter of food. No man, woman, or child went hungry because our bakers' shops had to be replenished from the Antipodes. The reason for that extraordinary immunity from suffering was that British credit in the darkest days of the submarine campaign stood high and unshaken. It had its foundations deep down in the unity and industry and steadfast spirit of the people. These are the priceless factors which still make up British credit. These are the magnets which attract the argosies of every land to our ports. They are the creation of generations of orderly and successful toil. They are practically invulnerable against foreign enemies. They can be destroyed only by a domestic convulsion. In this sphere "direct action" could, and almost inevitably would, provoke swift catastrophe.

It is a simple proposition to understand that strikes for political purposes are unnecessary so long as the men and women of the country have, through the vote, the whole control of government.

It is rather more difficult to realize that, in one fashion or another, work is the source of all our pros-

perity, and that if it ceases our lines of supply, reaching out over all the oceans to all the continents, are automatically cut.

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An A. F. of L. Weakness

ONE of the weakest things about the American Federation of Labor is its publicity service, not only for the use of teachers, social students and the general public, but for the use of trade unionists themselves. No big business or political or social interests, unless it be some of the churches, are so badly equipped in the matter of spreading their news and views, yet few have such an extensive ready-made reading clientele.

The two main features of the A. F. of L. service are the American Federationist, a monthly magazine which is the mouthpiece of Sam Gompers, and the Weekly News Letter, a partial digest of labor news which is sent to a number of labor papers. Both do good work; neither more than scratches the field of possibility.

Many an ordinary news or magazine syndicate turns out a better service than the News Letter and hundreds of comparatively small organizations turn out a better magazine than the American Federationist. Neither News Letter nor Federationist is as creditable to such a great organization as the A. F. of L. as they should be, and as they might well become. Indeed, the Federationist could rival any magazine in existence in point of circulation, in general interest, in value to the movement it represents, in financial success.

Such a magazine could not be the product of the spare time of a few busy labor leaders. It would have to be run by the trained specialists of the game, as all successful magazines are run. Labor, like other movements and persons, has, to a large extent, made the error of supposing that anybody with the will

and the energy can build up and run as great newspapers or magazines as were ever published, and that there is no special need for using men and women trained in the publishing business. If they try their hands at producing papers, and do not make successes of them, they put it down to causes other than the lack of trained help in their own organizations. Lots of otherwise keen and intelligent persons who would hesitate about telling a plumber how to wipe a joint, or a brakeman how to brake a string of cars, or an electrician how to load a circuit, will with great assurance claim omniscience in the running of a newspaper. Many persons are sure that they could manage the daily papers they read far better than the men and women who do the job, and their confidence provides hilarity in all the big newspaper offices of the world.

That error of viewpoint is precisely the main reason why Labor has so far failed to put on the market a press that can command the united support of trade unionists, not to speak of getting circulation among non-unionists. In the comparatively few instances where Labor papers are real rivals of the ordinary public press, it will be found (I guessed it from experience and confirmed it by specific enquiry) that they are largely, if not wholly, the product of trained newspaper makers. (What I am now saying is as obvious to the so-called capitalist publishers as the nose on your face. They do not fear a Labor press produced by non-press tradesmen; they do fear a Labor press produced by their own men and methods. I wish it was as obvious to the Labor movement; it is becoming obvious, but slowly).

The American Federationist has an opportunity for development before it that few magazines ever had, and it is a great pity that it is not being used. If it were an ordinary commercial venture with such a field in front of it it would be built up to a two-million circulation. It would be on every newstand on the American continent because it would be made well worth buying. Trade unionists could not afford to be without it, and there are five million trade unionists alone. Probably before long it would be switched into a weekly, and might even be made the forerunner of a chain of Labor dailies.

The Weekly News-Letter needs developing, too, by the tradesmen who know the needs and the ways to meet them. The supplying of news and views that papers will use and pay for is a highly-developed and intricate business with a psychology of its own; it cannot be done carelessly with a pair of scissors and a paste pot.

Labor, to meet its needs for propaganda and the spread of fact, must compete according to the rules of the games developed out of the generations of experience. It is almost as futile to run a press without press experience and knowledge and equipment as it is for an amateur wireless enthusiast to try to run the central station of a city plant or a high school girl to try to be principal of a school with twelve hundred children, or a blacksmith to try to lay bricks or a bricklayer to try to make a horse-shoe.

Some of the members of the International Labor Press Association in conference in Montreal three weeks ago sensed the urgency of developing the publicity end of the A. F. of L. They sensed it because, although they were not originally newspaper makers, they had learnt enough about the game to see the necessity for action along the lines used by the non-Labor and the anti-Labor press and other propaganda and publicity agencies.

K. C.

The Genoa Conference

THE average citizen who depends upon the world's shipping for his food, probably is scarcely aware that there is a conference in session at Genoa, the Neapolitan port, where the conditions of labor of seamen are now under discussion by the nations which have subscribed to the League of Nations. It is a far cry from the present day when the eight-

hour day for sailors is being discussed, to the day when Samuel Plimsoll waged a strenuous fight against sending seamen to sea in ships that were known as coffin ships. His fight was for the principle that seamen should not have their lives endangered on account of their occupation, whereas the contention of today is that the mariners' general conditions shall be tolerable as to food, quarters and spare time.

Some years ago the writer took a voyage—not across the North Atlantic—when en route he learned that the steward who waited upon him, had no berth in the ship, but lay down in a corridor about midnight, rising at 5 a.m., and that he took his meals standing in the kitchen. Truly a nice life for a three weeks' voyage, which included crossing the tropics.

Not only has the sailor suffered abnormal hardships at sea, but when he has gone ashore. Being much in strange cities, he has been the victim for all the land harpies of both sexes that great ports are notorious for producing. Certain societies have done their best to combat this sort of thing, one such being the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, whose Seamen's Institutes have done excellent work in providing counter-attractions to tinselled vice. Too often the sailor has been an easy prey for the police and has been switched into jail for some trivial brawl. Last year two of them were arrested in this city for simply watching a raid in the district.

There is something logical in the idea that the sailor is something better as an outcome of the war, for during those five years he endured many varieties of peril and hardship, and then, as at no other time, the civilized world realized how completely the needs of humanity today depend upon ocean transportation. The changes involved necessarily entail higher charges for passenger and freight transportation; but if labor on land is obtaining better conditions, labor on the sea is equally entitled to the same advantages.

Caedmon.

Should Railroads Be Electrified?

It is asserted by E. W. Rice, Jr., in a presidential address delivered before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, that railway electrification may prove a prime factor in saving fuel and in relieving freight congestion, thus solving two problems that are bothering us insistently at present. In an article on "Some Phases of the Power Situation," contributed to "Power Plant Engineering" (Chicago) by E. A. Van Deusen, President Rice is quoted as saying that where electrification has been substituted for steam in the operation of railroads, fully 50 per cent. increase in available capacity of existing tracks and other facilities has been demonstrated. He goes on:

"It is estimated that something like 150,000,000 tons of coal were consumed by the railroads in the year 1917. Now we know from the results obtained from such electrical operations of railroads as we already have in this country, that it would be possible to save at least two-thirds of this coal if electric locomotives were substituted for the present steam-locomotives. On this basis, there would be a saving of over 100,000,000 tons of coal in one year."

This estimate, Mr. Van Deusen interpolates, is based on the assumption that the power for the electric locomotives is generated in and

transmitted from central power-houses using coal as fuel. It is obvious that if water-power were used, the whole 150,000,000 tons of coal could be saved. Mr. Rice said further:

"It is really terrifying to realize that 25 per cent. of the total amount of coal which we are digging from the earth each year is burned to operate our railroads, under such inefficient conditions that an average of at least six pounds of coal is required per horse-power of work performed. The same amount of coal burned in a modern central power-station would produce an equivalent of three times that amount of power in the motors of an electric locomotive, even including all losses of generation and transmission from the source of power to the locomotive. Where water-power may be utilized all of the coal used for steam locomotives can be saved."

Two notable examples of successful railroad electrification cited by Mr. Van Deusen in his article are those recently carried out by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad and the Norfolk & Western Railroad. In the case of the former 44 miles of heavy mountain railroad have been electrified, the power being obtained from mountain waterfalls, thus saving or releasing for other purposes hundreds of thousands of tons of coal every year.

In the case of the Norfolk & Western Railroad power is supplied from large central steam-power stations located at the mine-heads in West Virginia. Mr. Van Deusen continues:

"As mentioned before, this method of generating the necessary power for moving traffic is approximately three times as efficient, as far as coal consumption is concerned, as in the case of steam locomotives. It is evident, therefore, that there is another example in which a large annual saving of coal is effected.

"It must be noted, however, that railroad electrification, the most desirable from the point of view of the conservation of our fuel resources, is a matter that can not be undertaken wholesale, for several reasons. In the first place the capital outlay necessary would be enormous, and would run well into billions of dollars; and in the second place, each individual railroad system, or even division, is a problem in itself, to be judged on its own merits. It is safe to say that in the majority of cases electrification would be economically unsound at the present time. Nevertheless, electrification is inevitable; but it will not come through wholesale and revolutionary methods; instead it is to be hoped, in accordance with the dictates of sound judgment based on ripe experience and a knowledge of the workings of economic and engineering laws. . . .

"Of the 200,000,000 potential water horse-power in the country, government records indicate that over 70 per cent. are located in the mountain and Pacific States, that is to say, in the public-land States. Under the past Federal laws, the would-be-developer of water-power on these lands could not obtain a title which could be used as a basis for credit. This state of affairs has resulted in the virtual stagnation of the water-power industry. The question of remedying this condition has been before Congress for the past ten years, but until recently all efforts to obtain relief have been fruitless; however, a bill, known as the Water-Power Bill, which aims to release these water-powers for development, and at the same time protect the people's interests, has recently been passed by Congress.

"The water-powers of the coun-

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try have been developed to a very satisfactory extent in some sections, particularly where located on rivers and streams unaffected by the restrictive Federal laws. For instance, in the New England States approximately 600,000 horse-power have been developed and are in use and yearly produce about 2,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours, the equivalent of 3,000,000 tons of coal. Again, a prominent water-power company in the South in 1917 produced the equivalent of 900,000 tons of coal, while the equivalent output of a Middle-West company annually amounts to about 300,000 tons. Many other instances might be cited, but these three should serve to indicate what is being done under adverse statutory conditions and suggests how much more might be done under more favorable legislation.

"No more fitting conclusion to these remarks on the menacing condition of the present power situation could be found than the following words written by George Otis Smith, Director United States Geological Survey, in 1916:

"Our unsurpassed coal reserves, reenforced by these water-power resources, constitute a strong line of national defence in that they form a real basis of an industrial organization of the nation's workers. It is only through abundant and well-distributed power that they other material resources of the country can be put to their highest use and made to amount most in the nation's development."

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British "Black Coats"

Significant Move of Brain Workers
Towards Organized Labor.

(By ÉTHELBERG POGSON, London Correspondent of the Railroader.)

One of the most significant signs of the growing strength of organized British Labor is the continual and increasing move of the "black coated" workers towards organization on trade union lines.

There is now scarcely a definite section of these brain workers which has not its own union and is not fighting to obtain for itself the advantages of combination on almost precisely the same lines as did the horny-handed toilers between whom and them there was once so wide a gulf.

It has been an easy task to imbue them with the trade union spirit. The feeling that it was scarcely "respectable" to organize in the same way as did the railwaymen, the miner and the dustman died hard. The education which their several callings demanded, instead of helping them to see the light had the effect for long and stupid years of dazzling them to their real position. Your clerk with his swallow-tail coat, your shop walker with his patent leather shoes, even your typist in her thin, cheap "tailor-made" would hold up their white hands in horror if you suggested that they should join a trade union. It was "common", "low", "unprofessional".

By this time we have changed all that — or nearly all of it — and now we are finding the most enthusiastic fighters against bad conditions very often among those who used to speak of such things in whispers full of horror and in tones of shocked depugnance.

True, they do not always use the good old label of trade unionism. Many of them have christened their organizations Associations, Guilds, Societies, but called by any name, the weapon is just as effective and while some are still outside the fold of the Trade Union Congress, more are glad to seek its imprimatur year by year.

Membership of a few of these bodies can be quoted as most eloquent evidence of the success already achieved and augury of future triumph. Thus we have:

Railway Clerks' Association . . .	90,000
National Union of Clerks . . .	40,000
Shop Assistants' Union . . .	40,000
Postal and Telegraph Clerks . . .	30,000
Assurance Workers	20,000
Musicians' Union	16,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen	12,000
National Union of Journalists	5,000
Actors' Association	6,000

In other trades and professions we have, each in their own way organized:

Engineering—Technical engineers, shipbuilding, engineering and steel commercial staffs;

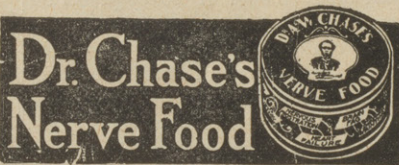


Could Not Sleep

Mr. Earnest Clark, Police Officer, 338 King St., Kingston, Ont., writes:

"For three years I suffered from nervousness and sleeplessness. I believe my condition was brought about by overwork. I had frequent headaches, neuralgic pains and twitching of nerves and muscles. I had indigestion, was short of breath and easily tired. I commenced a treatment of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and seven boxes of this medicine cured me of all my symptoms. I am now feeling one hundred per cent. better than I was, and have to thank Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for the good health I am now enjoying."

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a box, 6 for \$2.75, all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.



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Transport—Dock, Wharves and Shipping staffs, chipping clerical staffs, shipping and transport clerks;

Mining—Colliery Managers, mine managers, colliery under-managers, other colliery officials;

Banking—Bank officers, embraced in three associations.

Law—Law clerks.

Acting—Variety artists;

Commercial—Commercial travelers, co-operative officials;

Chemical, etc.—Scientific workers, industrial chemists.

Attempts are being made, and have to some extent succeeded, to bring all these together in a National Federation of Professional, Technical, and Supervisory Workers. There is a little shyness here and there, because of the feeling that such action might commit the unit organization too deeply to close connection with the Labor Party, and this is one of



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the things for which only time and patience can be subscribed.

To understand this difference it has clearly to be realized that the Labor Party in Britain is a political force. Now, many thousands of our black-coated workers are far from being able to subscribe to all they like to keep their trade unionism and their attitude towards the ballot box separate, and I am not sure that in the present stage of development this can be wondered at. It can hardly be expected that they should feel to an acute degree what our Socialist orators are so fond of adumbrating—"class consciousness". If they belong to any class at all, they will tell you, it is the Middle class, although exactly where that begins and ends neither they nor any other sociologist could explicitly determine.

Take as a concrete instance the organization to which I belong, the National Union of Journalists. We had considerable initial difficulties in floating it, because of the starchy notion that affected the minds of large numbers of men — there were not so many women journalists in those days — that ours was a profession and not a trade, and that we were sacrificing dignity by forming a union. There was already a Society called the Institute of Journal-

ists, to which belonged proprietors, editors and all classes of journalists. The business of this Institute was chiefly, so far as I could discover, to hold annual congratulatory gatherings and periodical picnics. There was some sort of friendly society side to it. But there was no vim, no ginger, no fight. How could there be?

But some of us wanted something more definite and direct. Now we have a minimum wage of \$42 per week for London daily and evening papers, with slightly lower scales for the provinces, have tackled the news agencies and will soon be after the weeklies and trade organs. We take in photographers, artists, and free lance contributors, but leave employers to the comfortable enclosure of the Institute. We want out-of-work pay and donations during sickness or other bad luck, and are affiliated to the Printing Trades Federation, though not yet to the Trades Congress.

The reason for the last fact is the one I have hinted as affecting black-coated workers generally. Journalists may be and are Conservatives, Liberals, Socialists or moderate Labor men, and we know, as do other bodies, we should be prejudicing our trade union unity if we insisted on anything which would savor of an abrogation of political independence.

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FOR BREADS - CAKES - PUDDINGS - PASTRIES



Crisp, Crackling
COOKIES
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milk—taste the
delicious blend
of flavors.

Perhaps the liveliest of our black-coated organizations is the National Union of Shop Assistants. It has a programme which, if carried through, will give its members something like \$150,000,000 increase in wages this year, and has pulled off a number of rather remarkable strikes with flying colors. Generally speaking, however, our brain workers do not strike. They are able to put their case in so lucid and reasoned a fashion that they can get most of their effects without resorting to that measure.

Still results are not yet all that may be desired. Many a man or woman of more than average educational attainments is working for much less than manual workers, and the spirit of unrest among them is stirring. When the British brain workers get thoroughly on the move they will do more for the cause of democracy than was ever dreamed of by the fathers of trades unionism and save the country from the wrong sort of revolution, while hastening that which can only come about by evolution.

AUTHOR BECOMES MINER

With a view to qualifying himself as an official Labor candidate for Parliamentary honors in Great Britain, Mr. Joseph Keating, the well-known author, has decided to return to the coal mines, which he abandoned in favor of literature. Approached by representatives of various miners' lodges in the Aberdare Division to allow his name to be submitted as the miners' nominee, Mr. Keating decided to go to work about the mines and to join the South Wales Miners' Federation as a mine-worker, thus qualifying in all respects as the possible official candidate of the federation. Mr. Keating worked in the mines at Mountain Ash from boyhood for nearly seven years, and has written several books dealing with life in miner became an author. Now the author has become a miner again.

GOOD REASONING

Parent—"What is your reason for wishing to marry my daughter?"

Young Man—"I have no reason, sir; I am in love."—"London Opinion."

:o:

A FLYAWAY AFFAIR

A fly and a flea in a flue were imprisoned; so what could they do?

Said the flea, "Let us fly!"

Said the fly, "Let us flee!"

So they flew through a flaw in the flue.—"Orange Peel."

:o:

BEING NICE TO HER

The Fair One—"I see here where a man married a woman for money. You wouldn't marry me for money, would you?"

The Square One—"Why, no, I wouldn't marry you for all the money in the world."—"Tar Baby."

:o:

FAMILY SENTIMENT

Father—"But, my dear Dorothy, your husband already owes me a lot of money. I don't think he should expect me to lend him more."

Daughter—"Well, father, he has to get it somewhere, and he has a certain sentiment about keeping his creditors in the family."

:o:

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

Traveling Salesman—"Whom do you consider the smartest man in the village?"

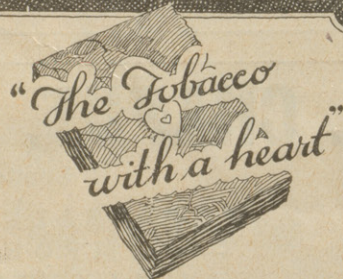
Jed Hicksleigh — "Postmaster. He's the smartest feller hereabouts; speaks six languages."

Travelling Salesman — "Learned them in college, I presume."

Jed Hicksleigh — "No, he's just kinda got onta 'em readin' postal cards." — "New York World."

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SIDE-LINES

(By KENNEDY CRONE)

LAST Saturday afternoon I was fishing for minnows and tadpoles in an old quarry hole at Tetraultville. It was serious business, as I had to prove my efficiency in front of a lot of youngsters who were sure I was the Minnow and Tadpole Champion of the World, ready to meet all comers.

The occasion was a Sunday School picnic, one of those queer things which can charm the heart or be an awful bore, according to the mood and the angle of view. I had gone down in one of four street cars marked "Special" and carrying cargoes of boisterous little people who got a lot of fun out of a trip that would weary most adults. At the end of the journey, where there were meadows and woods for the children to run wild in, I sat down to read the Gazette, but I had hardly begun before a deputation of small boys came along to "borrow" it to make paper boats. I compromised by giving them half of it, and after they had gone I found that I had given away the editorials which I hadn't read. However, I reflected that they were serving a useful purpose, anyway.

A few minutes later a deputation arrived to borrow a knife to cut fishing rods from the trees, and I thought that the place where paper boats and fishing rods were needed might be worth a visit. One boy said that you had to go through the "jungle," and out on the other side was a pond. Another boy said it wasn't a pond; it was a lake. A third thought it was the beginning of the St. Lawrence river, but he wasn't sure, and the other boys needn't laugh because maybe he was right, after all, and besides he'd "let them see," by means of "banging up their eyes," whether they'd laugh at him or not. Whereupon the biggest boy of the party, conscious of his physical invulnerability off-handedly advised this offended boy to "curl up and bust." In the pond, lake or river there were "black goldfish" and fat "polly-

wogs" in "millions," so the boys told me.

In a rash moment I said that when I was a kid I knew a thing or two about catching minnows or "black goldfish" and tadpoles or "pollywogs." The news spread rapidly and also became highly colored in passage. I heard later that I had claimed to be the only living specimen capable of whistling the minnows and tadpoles to their doom, and I wouldn't be surprised to hear that there still a tale running around somewhere that I professed to call the minnows and tadpoles by their Christian names, thus causing them to leap into my pockets from sheer joy.

On the way to and through the "jungle"—a dense thicket not inappropriately described—other youngsters joined the expedition and brought cans and milk bottles to hold the "catch." It was quite an army that eventually came out on the other side of the jungle. In a meadow on the other side was the fishing ground, a broad quarry-hole with water about a foot deep and dotted with islands made for adventure. Some children were already there musing up their Sunday clothes in the muddy places and enjoying themselves generally. I was kept busy for two hours catching "goldfish" and "pollywogs" in a handkerchief stretched on twigs, and some of the youngsters soon imitated the trick and we all had a swell time. As my handkerchief was the biggest, I had to loan it out now and then to little girls whose hankies were too small to even blow small noses, not to speak of being used as fishing nets.

It was all very noisy and exciting. In between landing minnows and tadpoles, and trying to spread them fairly amongst the cans and milk bottles; and settling disputes and disappointments about somebody getting three, and somebody getting a fatter one than somebody else; and trying, quite uselessly, to stop boys from wading with their boots and stockings on; and wringing as much water as possible from somebody's hat; and recovering from the ocean somebody's fifteen-cent diamond brooch; and saving my straw hat from being used as a boat by a four-year-old enthusiast—in

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between these affairs, I had to answer as well as I could about four hundred questions, at least two hundred of which not even the Encyclopaedia Britannica could answer. Here are some of the questions I happen to remember:

"Do tadpoles sting?" "How are tadpoles made?" "Does the sun turn a minnow's skin gold?" "Why is a tadpole fat at one end?" "Do minnows eat three meals a day?" "How long can they live out of water?" "How old is that one?" "How many minnows are there in

the world?" "What do tadpoles eat?" "Do their mothers give them names?" "Where do they go when they die?" "Can they be fried?" "Is a tadpole bad luck?" "Could a minnow walk if it had feet?" "Why doesn't a minnow get feet?" "How can fish see in the dark?" "Do they live in ice in the winter?" "Why are there no big fish here?"

Friends tell me of the heavenly delights of trout fishing; I must tell them of the sport of minnow and tadpole fishing, with lots of children around to keep the interest up.

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TENTS AND AWNINGS

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Some Unofficial Side-lights From Delegates To The A. F. of L. Convention

(By KENNEDY CRONE)

In the last two weeks or so I have had the good luck to meet many of the delegates to the convention of the American Federation of Labor, mostly in their off-duty moments. Some of the things they said were rather interesting. They were not said for publication, but there can be no harm in putting some of them in print, so here they are, as verbally accurate as memory and impression will allow:—

"Your newspapers are not as 'class conscious' as American papers. Some of them give a better show to Labor than most American papers, though I notice you have your Me-and-God sheets, too."

"The A. F. of L. is the best thing Labor on this Continent possesses, but it needs brushing up now and then or it would go stale. I don't think those One Big Union and other break-away movements really do it a bit of harm. In some ways they do it good."

"Your city is very old in spots and very new in spots. Such an old city could have done better in some things. As a place to live in the city is quite ordinary. Your slums are as bad as any I ever saw."

"Your Labor men know us, of course, but some of your non-labor men seem surprised that we don't murder the English language and spit all over the place."

"I was born in the stinks of a slum and I never went to school. I don't know very much yet, but I do know justice, and I do know a lady or a gentleman."

"If only the teachers and the newspapermen and women were unionized and federated, what a power for good

for everybody! Free teachers teaching the children and free newspaper writers carrying on with the adults!"

"When I was young I was a clerk in a Nevada hotel, and all my spare time was used up in playing stud poker and soaking liquor. I wish I had those years back. There is so much to do, and I am getting old."

"Give them the truth! I am 65 years of age and know nothing about running a newspaper except to tell the truth, and that what lots of papers don't know. I give the truth whether they like it or not. They can keep their advertising if they want to. Truth is more important, and if they find you mean to tell the truth, they will bring their advertising in again. Believe me, the truth is a good business proposition. I slam the liars and the fakirs good and hard. They say they'll never buy it next week. Mebbe they're scared. I hope so. Still, they keep on buying the paper and I keep on telling the truth. I have only 1500 trade unionists in my town, yet the circulation of my paper is 3500. People want the truth. Give it to them. Don't care a damn for anybody! Go to it! Tell the truth!" (At the International Labor Press Conference).

"I see kids ten years of age selling papers on the streets of Montreal. What's the law on the subject?"

"Some of your slums are pretty bad. Says I: 'Never mind the show places; let's see how the underdog lives.' The underdog is just as badly off here as anywhere else."

"I am a radical. You don't need to put me through the third degree to find me out. I confess. I not

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only confess, but I say I am proud of being a radical."

"Most of your women seem lacking in vitality. Somebody said it was due to war work and war worries. What's the fact?"

"I was a minister before I joined the labor movement; rather, I was drawn into the movement by the things I said and did. I am glad I am in it. Some of the delegates think it is a joke to get into a wet town like Montreal, I am a prohibitionist, and I look at it this way: A sobered worker will realize more clearly what is the matter with the social system and act more quickly. The man deprived of the beer which he thought a necessity will look around for someone to blame, and he will find other things worth blaming."

"English? Well, no, I'm American for a couple of hundred years back, anyway, but the family is originally English and I guess I am still English in some ways, and a bit cocky about it, too. The lion looks pretty good to me, and I have no ambition to twist the old chap's tail."

"Somebody told me you had a swell cabaret, but, tell me, what is your infant death rate and what do you do about child labor?"

"Tom Moore told us that Canada was bigger than the old U. S., and I guess it does us good to hear it plump like that once in a while."

"It is surprising to hear Canadian Labor men talking of the free British institutions. I guess we have something to learn up here."

"It's a swell town for tourists, but

I suppose you have your own home troubles."

"I am surprised at the number of French people who speak English, and the number of English people who don't know French."

"Perhaps 85 per cent of the delegates to the A. F. of L. are of Anglo-Saxon or Celtic origin; I do know the preponderance in tremendous. It naturally follows that, whatever the superficialities may be, there is an affinity with Canadians that goes down very deep, deeper than I can quite put into words because I was only seven months at school in my life and my wife taught me to read and write."

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RIGA PURGATIVE WATER**Labor Plans To
Fight Profiteers**

In connection with the high cost of living, a resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council last week which affirms that as all efforts have apparently failed to secure legislation for curbing the activities of the food profiteers, and as the workers feel they cannot hope to get relief through legislation, the council therefore resolved to urge on all affiliated unions the advisability of perfecting their union organizations so that they could insist upon greater remuneration for their labor.

In support of the motion, Mr. J. T. Foster, president of the Trades and Labor Council, said that some of the workers were beginning to think if there was to be any relief from profiteering it was to be found in using the same weapons against employers as the latter were using against labor. Repeatedly the council had urged that the Government interfere with the robbery of the people, and the only effect was to increase the burden on the back of the consumer. "We think," said Mr. Foster, "that the only thing to do is to give them a battle in their own way and make them pay for our labor. As we want to get back enough coin on which to live, the only thing to do is to give them strikes and cessation of labor till we get the wages we need."

Delegate Moore delivered a satiric address on the function of a government, contending that the business of the Government was to see that the big corporations were properly protected and that the workers, after producing more than they received, should go back home every day contented. And the Government, he added, was doing well, as they represented the property interests of the country. "Do you ever think they represent you?" he asked of the delegates present; "No, they represent property."

Delegate Manly thought it was futile to blame the Government, "when we elected 65 representatives and voted for the boss." It would be wiser to see that labor representatives were elected next time.

THE RESOLUTION

The resolution after some further discussion, was adopted unanimously. It reads as follows:

Whereas, the costs of necessities of life have increased and are still increasing with such rapidity as to make it almost impossible for the workers to provide sustenance for himself and family; and

Whereas, an additional factor of this increase is the varied taxes that have been and are being imposed upon the people by the Government; and

Whereas, all efforts in the past to have the officials of the Government enact legislation to curb the activities of food profiteers have apparently failed; and

Whereas, in apportioning taxation to meet the funded debt of the country, those responsible for its apportioning either through lack of ability or designedly placed the burden of same most inequitably upon those through legislation; and

Whereas, under these circumstances we feel that the workers cannot hope to secure relief at this time through legislation; and

Whereas, past experience has demonstrated that where the workers have been thoroughly organized they through their economic strength, have succeeded in securing some measure of relief from this onerous condition;

Therefore, be it resolved that we urge upon all affiliated unions the advisability of perfecting the organization of their different trades or callings and by their economic strength insist upon the greater remuneration for their labor in order to supply the necessary wherewithal for the sustenance of themselves and their families, and

Be it further resolved, that we pledge ourselves to assist in the fullest possible measure any movement that may be inaugurated by any organization along these lines.

-20-

LABOR BREVITIES

Samuel Gompers has accepted an invitation from the City of Toronto and the Canadian National Exhibition to visit Toronto next Labor Day and deliver an address in connection with the Labor Day demonstration.

* * *

The conference of Ontario and Quebec Typographical Unions meeting in Hamilton last week went on record in support of the appeal of the Canadian Daily Newspapers Association to the Dominion Government for legislation requiring each newsprint manufacturer to supply his proportion of the domestic requirements of newsprint at prices not higher than the current contract prices for export countries.

* * *

On the request of the municipality of Peterborough the Minister of Labor has appointed a board of conciliation to investigate the dispute between the Canadian General Electric Company and its employees.

* * *

As a consequence of the rejection of the Conciliation Board report by the striking miners of Minto Collieries, New Brunswick, a Royal Commission will be appointed.

-20-

"Is this an imitation of butter?" inquired the man with the market-basket.

"I can't say that it is," replied the conscientious dealer. "We are far beyond imitating butter. We are now imitating the imitations." —"Washington Star."

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LABOR BREVITIES

According to James B. McLachlan, secretary of the United Mine Workers, the Government must appoint a Royal Commission to investigate Nova Scotia miners' grievances, because it is bound to accept the findings of its own conciliation board.

* * *

Building trade laborers of London, Ont., threaten strike.

* * *

Chief Justice Mathers, chairman of the board of conciliation probing the differences between the Canadian Northern Express Company, Winnipeg, and its employees, expresses a belief that a settlement will be made by next Monday.

* * *

The right of a woodsman to benefit under the Workmen's Compensation Act was decided when Mr. Justice Howard, in the Superior Court, awarded Arthur Trottier \$78 for total temporary incapacity, and \$1,832.18, being the capital of an annuity of \$144.38 for permanent partial incapacity through losing the sight of one eye by a blow from a branch of a tree he was chopping. His employers, the Sheppard and Morse Lumber Company, contended the Act did not apply to woodsmen, but the judge found differently.

* * *

The Canadian National Exhibition will not cancel its invitation to Samuel Gompers, as asked by some Orangemen, holding that Gompers has not

shown any anti-British spirit, but simply put the Irish resolutions of the Federation of Labor Convention as part of his duty as chairman.

* * *

There is a serious milk shortage in St. John, N.B., owing to a strike of milk producers. A motor truck conveying milk to the city was stopped at a barricade by three men who overturned it and spilt the milk on the roadway.

* * *

Many Montreal clothing factories which had closed down owing to slackness of trade have reopened. Employers and workers are at present engaged on the problem of drafting a standard scale of production, in accordance with the wishes as expressed at the convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in Boston.

* * *

London, Ont., street car strike has been settled and service resumed. The men will receive 48 cents an hour. Fares will not be raised.

* * *

The striking machinists of Dominion Steel Corporation at Sydney have returned to work, having accepted the company's offer of an eleven per cent wage increase, though they have not obtained the nine hour day they demanded. The terms of settlement are 68 cents an hour, a ten hours day, time and a half for Saturday night work, and double time for Sunday and Sunday night work.

* * *

Windsor, Ont., Street Railway employees will be given a substantial increase July 1.

Mayor Church has wired Senator Robertson "Hands off Toronto Street Railway situation" apparently with a view to deterring the Government from taking steps to avoid a strike. Asked what the wire meant E. N. Compton, Dominion Fair Wage Officer said: "It means that we are through. There will be a strike, unless other means arise of preventing it."

:o:

"Could you do something for a poor old sailor"? asked the seedy-looking wanderer at the gate.

"Poor old sailor?" echoed the lady at work at the tub.

"Yes'm, I followed the wotter for sixteen years."

"Well," said the woman, after a critical look, "you certainly don't look as if you ever caught up with it."

Then she resumed her labors. Then she resumed her labors.

:o:

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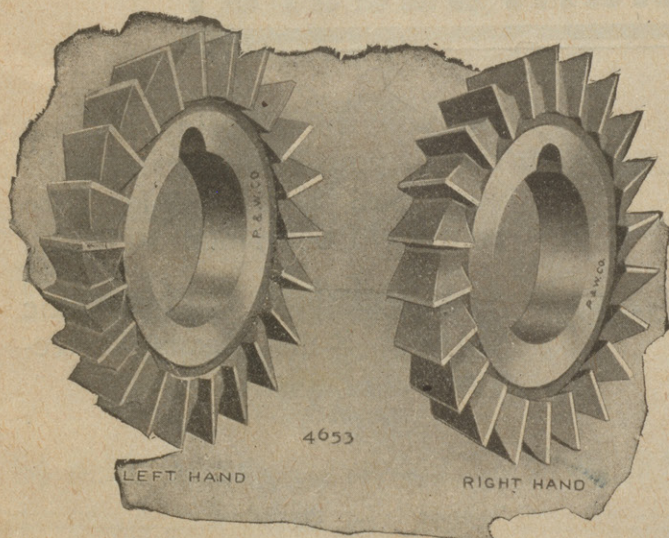
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